

## Questions for Listening • Strategies for Sharing

In *The ABCs of My Feelings and Music*, the authors suggest starting with the emotion:

- Define the emotion and think of time(s) when you have felt this way
- What elements of the music make you feel that emotion?
- Is it the sound of the music that makes you feel that emotion or something else such as title, lyrics, or the context in which it was created?

Another approach is starting with the music:

- What do you notice in the music?
- What does the music remind you of? What does it make you think of?
- How does the music make you feel?
- Do you know something in the title, lyrics, or context that suggests this feeling?
- What elements of the music make you feel that emotion?
  - Timbre – Instruments, voices, or other sounds
  - Tessitura – High or low sounds
  - Pitch – Major or minor, dissonant or consonant
  - Rhythm – Even or syncopated, long or short, sounds or silence, repetitive
  - Dynamics – *pp* to *ff*, any changes (gradual or sudden)
  - Tempo – speed, any changes (gradual or sudden)
  - Articulation – smooth, choppy, accented
- What do you think the composer wants you to feel when you listen to their music?
- What and how is the conductor (leader) communicating with the other performers?  
How are the performers communicating with each other?
- Do you think the musicians like this music? How can you tell?

Strategies for sharing thoughts, observations, and ideas

- **Touch Charts or Cards:** Work with a partner to choose one emoji to name the feeling and two words to describe the music; be prepared to share out to a bigger group.
- **Think – Pair – Share:** Student thinks about the question; discusses it with a partner; shares ideas out to a bigger group or class discussion.
- **Small Group Debrief:** Students discuss their thoughts and observations in a small group.
- **Listener's Tic-Tac-Toe:** Work in a small group to complete one row.
- **Listener's Four Square:** Draw questions out of an envelope? Work in a small group to complete the task.
- **Artwork:** Draw an illustration that represents a feeling or memory that is prompted by the music.